

Message Text

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16

ACTION EA-09

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SUBJECT: MYONGDONG TRIAL - SENTENCES

REF: SEOUL 6697

SUMMARY: ON AUGUST 28 COURT ANNOUNCED MYONGDONG DEFENDANTS GUILTY AND PRONOUNCED SENTENCE. SENTENCES WERE LIGHTER THAN THOSE DEMANDED BY PROSECUTION BUT HEAVIER THAN MOST OBSERVERS EXPECTED. THERE WERE NO SPECIAL DEMONSTRATIONS ON BEHALF OF DEFENDANTS AT COURTHOUSE, BUT TRIAL WAS HEAVILY ATTENDED BY FOREIGN MISSIONARY COMMUNITY, LOCAL CHURCH LEADERS, AND OTHERS WHO WISHED TO DEMONSTRATE MORAL SUPPORT FOR ACCUSED. DEFENDANTS WHO HAD BEEN AT LIBERTY DURING THE TRIAL REMAINED FREE FROM DETENTION AFTER TRIAL HAD ENDED.

1. ON AUGUST 28, COURT ANNOUNCED THAT IT HAD FOUND THE MYONGDONG DEFENDANTS GUILTY OF VIOLATING EM-9. SPECIFICALLY, COURT RULED THEY HAD A) DISTORTED FACTS AND SPREAD FALSE RUMORS ON AFFAIRS OF STATE; B) ATTACKED THE EMERGENCY MEASURES; AND C) PROPOSED AMENDMENT OF THE YSHIN CONSTITUTION.

JUDGE ACKNOWLEDGED DISTINGUISHED CAREERS OF MOST DEFENDANTS, BUT SAID HISTORY OF HARM DONE KOREA BY POLITICAL FACTIONALISM SHOWED THEIR OBSESSION WITH PROTEST NOT CORRECT PATH

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FOR KOREA.

2. SENTENCES WERE AS FOLLOWS:

DEFENDANTS IMPRISONMENT AND LOSS OF CIVIL RIGHTS

KIM TAE CHUNG 8 YEARS

MUN IK HWAN 8 YEARS

YUN POL SUN 8 YEARS

CHONG IL HYONG 5 YEARS

YI TAE YONG 5 YEARS

HAM SOK HON 8 YEARS

HAM SE UNG 5 YEARS

YI U CHONG 5 YEARS

MUN TONG HWAN 5 YEARS

SIN HYON PONG 5 YEARS

YI MUN YONG 5 YEARS

YI HAE TONG 3 YEARS

SO NAM TONG 4 YEARS

AN PYONG MU 3 YEARS

MUN CHONG HYON 5 YEARS

CHANG TOK PIL 2 YEARS

KIM SUNG HUN 2 YEARS

YUN PAN UNG 5 YEARS

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3. NO DEFENSE LAWYERS WERE PRESENT AT THE SESSION. ALL OF ORIGINAL COUNSEL HAD RESIGNED, BUT COURT APPOINTED LAWYERS DID NOT SHOW UP EITHER.

4. NO SPECIAL DEMONSTRATIONS OCCURRED IN BEHALF OF DEFENDANTS AT COURTHOUSE. TRIAL WAS, HOWEVER, HEAVILY

ATTENDED BY LOCAL CHURCHMENT INCLUDING CARDINAL KIM, BISHOP CHI, ARCHBISHOP YUN KONG HUI, ANGLICAN BISHOP PARK, NCCK GENSEC KIM KWAN SUK, REV. YUN HYON OF AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL. FOREIGN MISSIONARY COMMUNITY WAS ALSO STRONGLY REPRESENTED. THREE NDP ASSEMBLYMEN (NOT FROM LEADERSHIP) WERE PRESENT AS WERE TWO DUP ASSEMBLYMEN.

5. THE SEVEN DEFENDANTS WHO HAD BEEN AT LIBERTY DURING THE TRIAL WERE NOT (RPT NOT) DETAINED AFTER THE TRIAL. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT THEY MAY FIND THEMSELVES UNDER HOUSE ARREST, BUT AS OF THIS WRITING POLICE GUARD OF THEIR HOMES HAS NOT BEEN CONFIRMED.

6. COVERAGE BY US FOREIGN CORRESPONDENTS WAS HEAVY ESPECIALLY SINCE MANY HAD COME TO KOREA TO COVER RECENT PANMUNJOM INCIDENT. TRIAL MAY CONSEQUENTLY RECEIVE HEAVIER THAN NORMAL PLAY IN US.

7. COMMENT: MOST OBSERVERS FOUND SENTENCES MORE SEVERE THAN EXPECTED. MANY ESTIMATED THAT COURT WOULD SENTENCE DEFENDANTS TO ONE HALF THE PENALTY DEMANDED BY THE PROSECUTION. THE COURT'S SENTENCING ACTUALLY AVERAGED OUT TO ABOUT 80 PERCENT. SNEIDER

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